far. However, the question of patent rights for seeds is being examined presently by the Standing Policy Planning Committee of the Governing Body of I.C.A.R.

Talks with Chinese Premier

4694. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the talks held between the Chinese Premier and the Indian leaders on various bilateral matters during his recent visit to India;

(b) whether bilateral issues such as Indo–China border dispute, Nuclear Non–Proliferation Treaty and border trade also figured in the talks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) (a) The Chinese Premier Mr. Li Peng visited India from 11–16 December 1991. He held wide–ranging talks with the Prime Minister, Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and met with the President and the Vice President.

The leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction at the improvement of India–China relations in recent years, and reaffirmed their readiness to continue to develop friendly, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co–existence.

(b) and (c). Bilateral issues including the boundary question and functional cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, including in the area of border trade, were discussed between the two sides. Issues related to the Nuclear Non–Proliferation Treaty were discussed during which India's consistent and principled policy on nuclear issues was reiterated to the Chinese side.

Both sides reiterated that efforts would be made to arrive at an early and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through friendly consultations. The two sides also agreed to maintain final settlement of the boundary question.

The two sides positively appraised cooperation in trade, culture, science and technology, and agreed to expand cooperation in agriculture, energy, public health and education.

An agreement on the re–establishment of Consulates General in Shanghai and Bombay, a Consular Convention, a Memorandum on the Resumption of Border Trade, a Trade Protocol for 1992, and a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Peaceful Applications of Outer Space Sciences and Technology were signed during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India.

Oil Drilling Operation in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu

4695. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the ONGC to complete oil drilling operations in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the time by which the drilling operations are likely to be competed.

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up a refinery unit in Ramanathapuram district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Well Uchipullil is